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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 69 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
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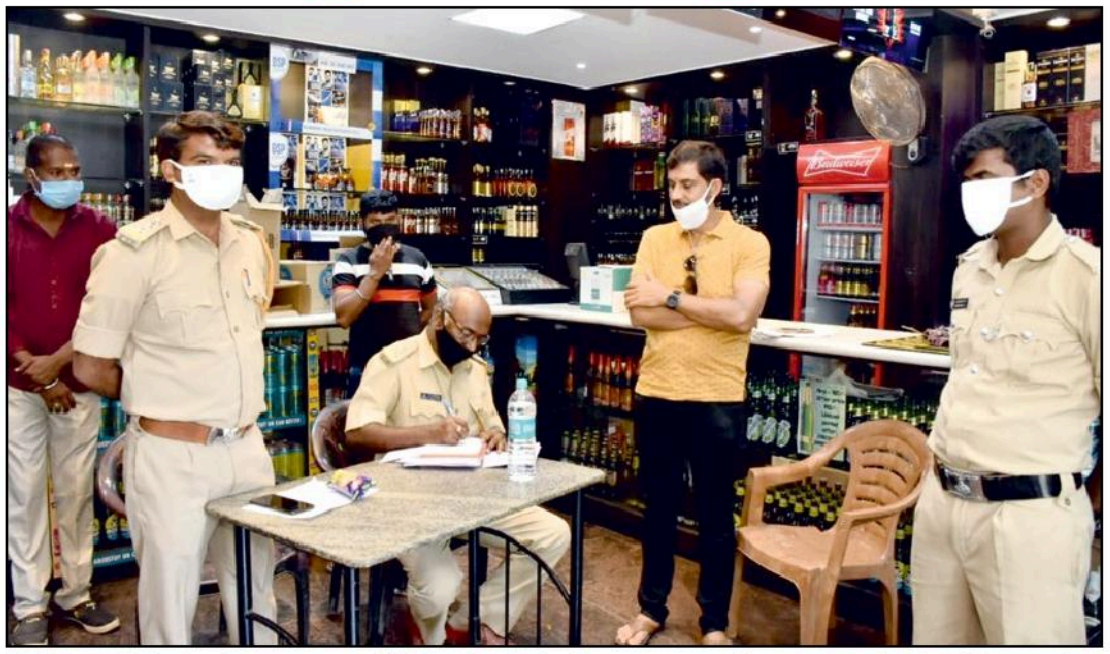
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

Excise officials check liquor inventory in Mysuru

- Standalone wine stores, MSIL outlets to open tomorrow
- Shops permitted to sell liquor between 9 am and 7 pm



Uniformed Excise Department officials check the inventory at a liquor store in city this morning.

Mysuru, May 3 (MTY&BCT)- Dry days are finally set to end as Mysuru (like rest of Karnataka) will conditionally re-open standalone liquor stores from tomorrow (May 4). Only CL-2 (retail shops) and CL-11C (State-run retail shops such as MSIL) will be open besides depots of the Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Ltd.

Malls and supermarkets cannot commence sales, the order issued by State Excise Commissioner M. Lokesh stated yesterday. Liquor sale is allowed only in areas that are outside COVID-19 Containment Zones. Shops have been allowed to sell liquor between 9 am and 7 pm. Only parcel service is open and sit-in sessions and over-the-counter drinking have been banned. The decision to open liquor stores brings a sense of relief to cash-starved Karnataka that has faced an acute fund crunch. From Mysuru alone, the State gets a revenue of Rs. 2.5 crore per day out of liquor sales.

Complaints of bootlegging

Preparing for tomorrow's sale, the State Government has ordered the audit of inventory of nearly 10,000 liquor vending outlets in the State. Accordingly, the stock checking began at all liquor stores in Mysuru this morning. The checking of stocks comes amidst complaints of bootlegging, sale of liquor at a premium and a number of thefts reported by wine store owners during the lockdown. Teams of Excise Department officials visited each of the 182 wine stores and 35 MSIL outlets and checked the inventory including empty boxes.

Complaints have been received about licence holders transporting liquor despite the premises being sealed and also illegally selling the liquor. "It is now imperative to check the current inventory against the stock that existed before the liquor sale ban came into force to ensure that the licence holder has not illegally sold the stock," officials said.

(See LIQUOR on page 6)

Movement Pass seekers, migrant workers throng City Police Commissioner's Office

Mysuru, May 3 (MTY&KS)- More than 2,000 people, who had applied for Movement Pass (both one way and two way) to go back to their native places or to bring back their family members stuck in other places thronged City Police Commissioner's Office in Nazarbad this morning to give their details and obtain the Pass. Also, many migrant workers from Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa and other places, who are involved in construction and other works in city, also thronged the Commissioner's Office. They were seen waiting outside the Police Commissioner's Office to give their details thinking that the lockdown had ended and they would be sent to their native places in special trains.

More than 2,000 people apply for Pass

(See WORKERS on page 6)

'Nityotsava Poet' Nissar Ahmed passes away in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, May 3- Renowned Kannada poet Prof. K.S. Nissar Ahmed, popular as 'Nityotsava Kavi,' passed away at his residence in Bengaluru this morning. He was 84.

According to sources, the celebrated poet was suffering from cancer and was hospitalised too.

Born on Feb.5, 1936, at Devanahalli in Bengaluru Rural district, Kokkare Hosahalli Shekh Haider Nissar Ahmed leaves behind two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. His wife Shahnawaz Begum (77), a retired teacher, had predeceased him on Mar.23, 2019.

Winner of several awards including Karnataka Sahitya Akademi Award for Poetry, Rajyotsava Award, Padma Shri among others, Prof. K.S. Nissar Ahmed had inaugurated Mysuru Dasara-2017 atop Chamundi Hill on Sept. 21.

Prof. K.S. Nissar Ahmed

He was accompanied by his wife Shahnawaz Begum, son Naveed Ninad, daughter-in-law Ruman Naveed, grandson Akhib Ninad and others.

Prof. Nissar Ahmed gave us an anthem *"Jogada Siri Belakinalli…,"* a poem about the glory of Karnataka that is exceptionally meaningful and lyrical. He was a major poet who never shied away from writing about being a Muslim among Hindu poets.

(See NISSAR AHMED on page 6)

Barutayti barutayti, Olle kaala barutayti…

Soothsayer Koravanjis of Mysuru stare at bleak future

Mysuru, May 3 (RKB&AM)- "*Barutayti barutayti, Olle kaala barutayti, aa Yellamma Devi Ellarannu Kaapaduttale* (Good times will come, Goddess Yellamma Devi will take care of everyone)."

This is the soothsaying as told by the Koravanjis who travel all around the city, to the doorsteps of the houses singing melodiously and praising Goddess Yellamma, clad in Ilkal sarees, round vermillion on the forehead, cowry-shell bowls in hand.

The above quote describes nothing but good things and optimism which is the need amidst the current Coronavirus crisis in the world.

But now, with lockdown in place and people strictly ordered to stay inside their homes, the plight of 30 families of Koravanjis, who reside near the Srinivasa Theatre in Bannimantap is disheartening. With no income or any means to earn either, these families are finding it difficult to even fend food for themselves.

As per their culture, at least two women in each family take up this as a profession and go door-to-door praising Goddess and predicting future fortunes. While at the doors on individual houses, the residents, as a token of appreciation and gratitude, present these Koravanjis with Rs. 11, a piece of coconut and 1 cup of rice. During festivals and other such events, many even present the Koravanjis with new clothes, Rs. 50-100 along with rice and coconut.

Since the last one-and-a-half months, with no scope to step out of the house, the living conditions of these Koravanjis have deteriorated. The men of the family are also employed in menial jobs like selling plastic chairs and hand-made ropes which they sell in villages. But now, with no means to commute, everyone's stranded at home with no job on hand or no income.

A brief history of Koravanjis

The history of Koravanjis dates back to Dwapara Yuga, during which Lord Krishna himself dressed as Koravanji once. Many ladies during that time took up this as profession and were a respected lot. Even to this day, the eldest daughter and the daughter-in-law of every family compulsorily become Koravanjis. Most of the Koravanji families residing in Mysuru came to the city from Shiggaon, near Hubballi (writer and philanthropist Sudha Murty's hometown), during the time of Dasara. They used to travel in and around the district during Dasara and stay for six months, then start their journey back to their respective hometowns in North Karnataka during Panchami, by the month of February, in time for the famous 'Yellamma Jaathre'.

But due to some constraints, some families stayed back in Mysuru for almost three years, making the city their home. Later on, many other families who came into the city, also stayed back and made it their home. Three years turned into 10 years, 20 years and these Koravanji families continue residing here.

No jobs or means to earn

One of the senior Koravanjis, Gaaliyamma, speaking to *Star of Mysore,* said, "During the initial days of the lockdown, many donors provided us with groceries and food packets, which helped us for a little while. But now, with the whole city being shut for almost 40 days and with no jobs or means to earn, we are finding it difficult to get through each day."

"Initially when we used to go door-to-door, people used to present us with some money, a little rice and coconut. But now, we have nothing. Goddess Yellamma Devi has bestowed us with knowledge that is what we share with others, including Ministers, telling them about their future. The Koravanji tradition has been in our families for generations and we will never stop doing it in spite of all the difficulties we face every day," she adds.

Gaaliyamma further said, "Yellamma Devi Koravanji profession has been there for generations. Many of us don't have proper houses, we live in huts. The family runs on our income and there are no loan facilities or schemes for us provided by the Government. If at all the Government comes up with new schemes and job opportunities for the menfolk of our community, we too can lead a good life like others."

NRI adopts Zoo elephant for two months

Jyothi Vikas with her daughter Prisha.

Mysuru, May 3 (KS)- Jyothi Vikas, a Non-Resident Indian (NRI), has adopted an elephant of Mysuru Zoo for a period of two months. A resident of Phoenix in USA, Jyothi has adopted the elephant in the name of her one-year-old daughter Prisha by paying Rs. 25,000 under the Animal Adoption Scheme. She made the contribution to help Zoo authorities in the upkeep of the Zoo animals.

Jyothi came across the appeal made by Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar on WhatsApp to generously help Zoo with funds towards its annual maintenance and decided to do her bit besides promising to raise funds among her friends towards the Zoo.

Adoption continues: The following persons have adopted the Zoo animals and birds by paying the annual fee under the Animal Adoption Scheme:

Kuldeep Sikarwar of Mumbai: Spot-Billed Pelican and Black Necked Swan - from Apr. 17, 2020 to Apr 16, 2021 by paying Rs. 30,000; R. Sudha of Bengaluru: King Cobra - Apr. 13, 2020 to Apr. 12, 2021 by paying Rs. 3,500; S.R. Shantha of Bengaluru: King Cobra - Mar.28, 2020 to Mar. 27, 2021 by paying Rs. 3,500 and Nijessh Shah of Mumbai: Love Bird, Indian Cobra and King Cobra- Apr. 1, 2020 to Mar. 31, 2021 by paying Rs. 6,500, according to a press release from the Zoo Executive Director.

VOICE OF THE READER

Need hygienic public toilets

Sir,

It is heartening to note that MCC has initiated steps to penalise people for not wearing face mask and for spitting in public places and on roads (From May 1, shell out Rs. 100, *SOM* dated Apr. 28).

Similar to spitting, open defecation and urination are still seen across the country, including Mysuru city. Post-Corona pandemic, urination in public places should be penalised not only in Mysuru city but also at national-level. Such activities need to be banned and should be made as punishable acts, to prevent the spread of infections and to keep the environment hygienic. It is the right time for Governments to take action in this direction.

It is also time to encourage people to use public toilets compulsorily by keeping the public toilets in user-friendly condition with higher level of sanitation and hygiene and increasing its numbers, especially in cities and towns across the country.

As prevention is better than cure, Governments and local administrators need to focus on this aspect. At the same time, the public need to act responsibly while using it and keep it clean for the next users, which is lacking in most of the public places now.

— Dr. S.V.N. Vijayendra
Mysuru 29.4.2020

I PU results to be out on May 5

Mysuru, May 3- The annual results of I PUC (2019-20) exam held in the month of February will be declared on May 5.

In a circular issued on Apr.30, the Department of Pre-University Education said that all Colleges in the State will message the results of their students to the mobile number and e-mail address of parents on May 5. There will be no display of results on the notice board of Colleges.

This is being done to ensure that students and parents do not rush to their respective Colleges to see the result, with COVID-19 lockdown regulations in place.

Also, the Department will issue directions to the Colleges at a future date regarding conduct of supplementary exams for failed I PUC students, at the College-level itself.

Further the Colleges cannot seek physical presence of students seeking admission to II PUC and cannot demand the students to pay the fee in full.

Besides, Colleges must allow parents to make fee payment in instalments if they choose to do so and also must not force such parents who express their inability to pay fee during admissions, the circular said and warned Colleges of action if they force parents having financial constraints, to pay the fees.

Sub-Registrar Offices in city and district to open from May 4

Mysuru, May 3- Ending the long wait of the public amidst the COVID-19 lockdown, all Sub-Registrar Offices in the city and district will resume functioning from May 4. Earlier this week, Revenue Minister R. Ashoka had said that all Sub-Registrar Offices in the State, which were closed due to the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown, will be functioning from Apr.29. But as Mysuru district has been declared as Red Zone, there is a delay in the re-commencement of Sub-Registrar Offices and now, all the fourteen offices in the district, including five in the city, will recommence property registrations and such other usual works from tomorrow. The offices will function with strict enforcement of social distancing and other lockdown curbs.

Holiday of Courts extended till May 16

Bengaluru, May 3- Due to COVID-19 lockdown, the holiday of all Courts across the State including the Karnataka High Court at Bengaluru and its Benches at Hubballi and Kalaburagi, has been extended till May 16. Earlier, the Courts had declared holiday till May 3.

In a notification issued on Thursday (Apr.30), Karnataka High Court Registrar-General Rajendra Badamikar said that all Courts in the State, including District Courts, Trial Courts, Family Courts, Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals have extended holiday till May 16.

Probe to trace source of Nanjangud COVID-19 cluster ends midway

Investigation Officer submits incomplete report

Harsha Gupta, IAS

Jubilant Generics at Nanjangud.

Mysuru, May 3 (BCT)- The mystery over how the first patient (now identified as Patient Zero or P52) from Nanjangud-based Jubilant Generics contracted the deadly Novel Coronavirus might remain a mystery for ever as the probe ordered by the State Government has remained incomplete.

Senior IAS Officer Harsha Gupta, who was appointed by the State Government to investigate the actual source of the virus, has submitted an incomplete report due to reported lack of cooperation from a few Departments.

On Apr. 24, the Government ordered the probe to ascertain reasons for the spread of COVID-19 in Mysuru district and it held the management of Jubilant Generics responsible for the spread of the positive cases.

Chief Secretary T.M. Vijay Bhaskar had asked Harsha Gupta to conduct the probe to find out the sources and reasons for the spread of virus and also investigate the responsibility of the factory in the spread of the virus. Harsha Gupta was asked to submit a report within a week.

"I have submitted my report and there are certain reasons for the incomplete report. I had written letters to a few Departments seeking details but I have not received any reply from them," he told reporters and a few TV channels yesterday.

"The Police investigation report has been handed over to me. I have worked within my limits and have submitted the report to the Chief Secretary along with the Police report. I had formed a technical team, including a technical expert from Bengaluru," Gupta told reporters. To another question, the Senior IAS Officer said the issue of reopening of the pharmaceutical company was not before him and he would not comment anything on that.

Out of the cumulative 90 cases reported in Mysuru, 73 are linked to the Nanjangud-based pharma company and the source of infection among the employees had become a subject of widespread speculation. This is the reason why the probe by Harsha Gupta had attracted much curiosity.

In the meantime, Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar said that the District Administration had extended all co-operation to the investigation. The investigation had faced hurdles since the beginning as Harsha Gupta had written to the Government seeking clarity on some issues. However, he had refused to divulge details on what issues he had sought clarity from the Government.

'Super-spreader'

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Department of Health and Family Welfare has identified the first patient from Jubilant Generics as a 'super spreader' of COVID-19 in the State. There are eight 'super-spreaders' in Karnataka who have spread the disease to as many as 226 patients.

A 'super spreader' is a person who has spread the virus to at least 10 or more contacts. Data from the Department shows that the pharma company employee in the Nanjangud cluster has infected 73 persons including primary contacts, secondary contacts and third-level contacts.

City Cops donate to COVID Care Team

Siddarthanagar Traffic Inspector Basavaraj and Udayagiri Inspector H.N. Vinay Kumar have donated Rs. 25,000 each to Mysuru COVID Care Team (MCCT), established by MLA S.A. Ramdas to provide food for 8,000 shelterless people. Apart from that, they have also handed over Rice, Dal, Cooking Oil, Coconut and other grocery to the MLA to be distributed to the needy. B.S. Prashanth of Safe Wheels, KR BJP Vice-President Santhosh Shambu, Yuva Morcha President Manu Shaiv (Appi), Ashraya Samiti Members Hemanth Kumar, Anil Raj and Jeevan were present on the occasion.

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

Alconomics: Hic... Hic... Hurray!

Indian States are addicted to alcohol. If they don't sell enough of it, they suffer financial withdrawal symptoms. That is why our CM and also the CMs of other States requested the Prime Minister to lift the ban. And it seems their wish has been granted. Hic... Hic... Hurray!

Now here is the irony. Just three years ago, in 2017, the same BJP in Karnataka badgered the then CM of Karnataka, Siddharamaiah, to ban alcohol. Siddharamaiah refused to do so and informed the House that such a ban would lead to corruption, illegal sales and reduction in State's revenue. To this C.T. Ravi, who is today a Minster in the State BJP, had said, "We banned arrack. Next we will ban liquor when we come to power." Well, the BJP is in power now and what are they doing? They are desperately requesting the PM to lift the ban on liquor!

Alcohol is a massive revenue generator. Liquor sales brought in over Rs. 21,400 crores into our State Treasury last year, that's 12% of our State's income. And our State needs this immediate injection of money to pay our frontline workers, from Pourakarmikas to healthcare workers.

Punjab CM Amarinder Singh confessed, "Liquor is a major source of revenue for all States," while requesting the PM to lift the ban. Similarly, Delhi CM who had stated that they do not have money to pay salaries of Government servants would be glad the ban is lifted as liquor sales make up about 14% of Delhi's tax revenue.

Now the flip side of this is that, according to a 2018 World Health Organisation (WHO) report, excessive alcohol consumption kills around 2,60,000 in India every year! Will this sudden lifting of ban drive people to binge drinking? Will it kill more people than COVID-19?

It is said alcohol is the elixir of the Gods, but the truth is, alcohol is also a balm for the poor. A tonic that helps them endure their harsh life. But with our economy broken, they may dive deep into alcohol-induced solace. Of course, this is a very dystopian view, but it would be better if the Governments were prepared.

This lifting of the ban will not only fill the State coffers but also put an end to alcoholics suffering from withdrawal symptoms. Just two weeks into the lockdown, six people in Tamil Nadu died after trying to substitute alcohol with after-shaves and varnish, while nine in Kerala committed suicide.

Speaking of Kerala, a State ruled by a Communist Party, I am reminded of a joke about former Communist Russia. In 1985, Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev started an anti-alcohol campaign. As production decreased, people had to stand in long lines to get their booze. Once there was such a line for vodka and one man got tired standing for hours. Frustrated he said, "I'm going to the Kremlin, to kill Gorbachev" and stormed off the line. An hour later, he came back. The line was still there, and everyone asked him, "So did you kill him? Did you kill Gorbachev?" The man replied "Kill him?! The line for that is even longer than this one!" Guess, the Communists in Kerala didn't want to take any such chances.

Meanwhile, it is time to bust the myth that our 'Chettas' from Kerala are the heaviest drinkers in India. In fact, they are not even the heaviest drinkers in South India. That dubious honour goes to our 'Machas' from Tamil Nadu. The TN Government earned a whopping Rs. 31,157 crore for the year 2018-19! Kerala on the other hand earned a modest Rs. 14,504.67 crore for the same year.

Now one would think the dry State of Gujarat would be the lowest earner and it indeed is, earning a mere Rs. 11 crore in 2019 from liquor sales. But...in the same year the Gujarat Government reported they had seized liquor worth Rs. 252 crore!

Also, there is a Gujarat model for drinking and the rest. While other States have bars and pubs in buildings, Gujarat, it seems, has turned a whole Union Territory into its Bar and Restaurant — Daman and Diu. This small Union Territory, spanning 122 square kilometres, which is about 30,000 acres located just a few kilometres from the Gujarat border, not only earns over Rs. 300 core in liquor sales but also has over 260 bars, 50 liquor wholesalers, 60 hotels, 8 distilleries, one brewery and counting! Once again proving that one nation-one law is important not just to stop religious absurdities but also cross- border alcohol jaunts.

Every time you ban something in one State and don't do the same in the other, cross-border "ban-induced tourism" increases. Like it happened in a small town in Kodagu called Kutta. Kutta is on the Karnataka-Kerala border and when Kerala banned alcohol in 2014, a 'booze-cruise' service began in Kerala. Buses from Kerala would bring drinkers in the morning to Kutta and after a wonderful day of boozing take them back.

For now, the drinkers are happy to get their fix but soon they are sure to get cocky. In the coming weeks husbands will justify their generous pegs as an inconvenience they have to endure so that frontline workers can get paid. And some others will arrogantly claim they are funding the fight against COVID when questioned about their afternoon drinking session.

So if you encounter a drunk on the road in the coming weeks, please do not honk, he may stop mid-way and acknowledge you as he thinks you are thanking him for his service, like it's being done with honks for doctors in America. Just treat him like a holy cow. Wait or drive around and don't make eye contact.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

District Minister holds meeting

to sort out differences between Mayor and MCC Commissioner

Mysuru, May 3 (RKB&DM)- Following complaints by Mayor Tasneem that MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde was not taking her and other Corporators into confidence during the launch of the MCC's COVID-19 lockdown initiatives such as distribution of food, ration kits and medicines and launching of Fever Clinics in the city, District Minister S .T. Somashekar held a meeting with the Mayor, Commissioner and other officials at the MCC Hall here yesterday, in order to sort out the reported differences.

Later speaking to presspersons, Somashekar sought to play down the Mayor's grouse against the Commissioner by attributing it to communication gap between the two.

Stating that he has directed the MCC Commissioner and other top officials to take the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and all Corporators into confidence in such initiatives, he pointed out that a prefect co-ordination between people's representatives and officials was the need of the hour during this extraordinary crisis caused by the Novel Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19).

Somashekar further said that he has directed the officials to keep the Corporators informed of all the MCC's initiatives on a daily basis, as this would largely help in ironing out any differences that may crop up between officialdom and the political class in the distribution of food and ration to the poor and the needy and other targeted sections of the society.

Referring to the dipping COVID-19 positive cases in the district, the Minister said that there are only 24 cases as of today which is heartening to note. He complimented the efforts of Doctors, Nurses and all other frontline workers in bringing down the number of cases in the district.

Mayor Tasneem, Deputy Mayor C. Sridhar, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde, Additional Commissioner N.M. Shashikumar, Health Officers Dr. Jayanth and Dr. Nagaraj, Corporators M.U. Subbaiah, B.V. Manjunath and a host of other Corporators were present.

Two arrested for illegal sale of liquor

Mysuru, May 3 (KS)- Yelwal Police have arrested two persons on charges of illegal sale of liquor at Huyilalu village in Yelwal hobli and have seized a car and two- bikes from them.

The arrested are Shivakumar and Mahesh of Belawadi village. Another accused identified as Sagar of Hootagalli fled from the spot when the Police raided the place.

The accused had illegally stocked liquor packs in the car and were selling it near Pattaladamma Temple near Huyilalu village, when the Police raided the spot.

Sub-Inspector Yogananjappa and staff Ningarajegowda, Kumar and Mahadevaswamy took part in the nabbing and seizing operation. A case has been registered at Yelwal Police Station.

495 migrant labourers return home

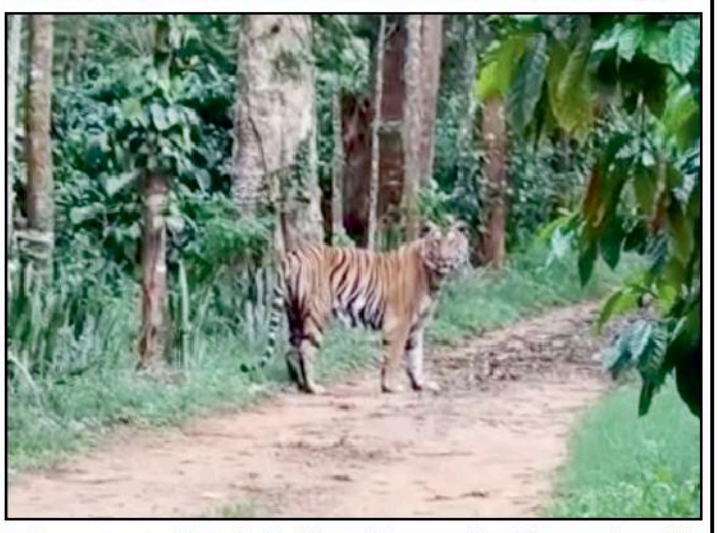
Mysuru, May 3- With the Government permitting return of stranded migrant workers to their native places, the District Administration has almost completed the process of sending back migrant workers to their native places.

Starting from Apr.26, the authorities have moved a total of 495 migrant workers, most of whom were from North Karnataka, in 24 KSRTC buses to their respective places. The process started with the movement of 75 labourers in K.R. Nagar taluk in 4 buses to their native places in the districts of Vijayapura, Raichur, Koppal, Yadgiri, Haveri, Ramanagara, Kolar, Bengaluru and Tumakuru districts earlier this week.

Thereafter, 125 labourers in Hunsur taluk were sent in 5 buses to Indi in Vijayapura district. Likewise, 71 migrant workers stranded in Mysuru and Nanjangud taluks, 105 in Mysuru city, 84 in H.D. Kote taluk and 19 in Periyapatna taluk were transported to their native places in districts such as Raichur, Vijayapura, Chitradurga, Hassan, Yadgiri, Bidar, Haveri, Koppal, Kalaburagi and Davanagere in about 20 buses.

With nearly 500 stranded labourers moved to their respective places, the process of migrant workers movement in the District is almost complete, according to sources.

Big cat spotted roaming inside Coffee Estate in South Kodagu



Ponnampet, May 3 (BCT)- The elusive tiger that is terrorising some of the villages in South Kodagu was spotted inside a coffee estate near Balele last evening. The feline was sighted near the estate of Podamada Ashok Chengappa at Rajapura village. The photographs and the video of the fully-grown big cat has gone viral.

The video shows two people in a car inside the estate spotting the feline. The big cat was spotted walking inside the estate and it turned back to look at the occupants of the car. It disappeared into thick bushes of coffee plants as the people in the car were dazed and at the same time excited to spot the feline.

Farmers and coffee growers of Kodagu are spending sleepless nights as wild animals continue to enter human habitats and estates near forest fringes. The animals including tigers and leopards take shelter inside the coffee estates in search of easily-available prey — mostly cattle heads — amidst lush green foliage.

Fear has gripped residents of villages situated on the periphery of the forest after many cattle heads were killed by tigers in Virajpet Taluk. Villages on the fringes of Brahmagiri Wildlife Sanctuary and Nagarahole National Park like Birunani, Beeruga, Ponnampet, Hudikeri, Harihara, Haisudlur, Bellur, Nalkeri, Kumatoor, Balele, Kottageri, Nittur, Karmad, Nallur, Mayamudi, Dhanugala, Siddapura, Valnoor and other areas have been affected and cattle killings have been reported.

Since the last three to four months, more than 75 cattle heads have been killed and residents have recovered half-eaten carcasses in their fields and coffee estates or near cattle sheds. There are instances of the tiger entering the cattle sheds through the opening atop the shed wall and killing the livestock.

Residents have found many of their livestock with their throats partly bitten by the big cats. Out of fear of human presence in the vicinity, the tigers have abandoned the cattle heads after pinning them to ground.

Though camera traps set up by the Forest Department and CCTV cameras installed outside the house compounds have captured the images of tigers venturing inside the human habitat in search of food, the Forest Department has not acted on the sightings and are mute spectators to the killings.

After paying a paltry compensation of Rs. 10,000 — while the actual cost of a cow ranges from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 50,000 — the Department Officials sit quiet, allege residents. Though there have been no attacks on humans, people are fearing to venture out of their houses while estate labourers refuse to come to work for the fear of the big cat.

Obituary

Lt. Col. Vinod Kumar (Retd.)

Bengaluru, May 3- Lt. Col. Vinod Kumar (Retd.) of Rajputana Rifles passed away this morning around 4 am at his residence in Bengaluru after a brief illness. He was 72.

General Officer Commanding, Army Sub Area, KK&G, had arranged to pay rich tribute to the departed soul as per Indian Army's Assured Dignified Last Rites' Scheme (ADLRS) and as per the tradition of the the Armed Forces, a serving Army Officer laid wreath on the departed soul on behalf of the Chief of Army Staff.

Lt. Col. Vinod Kumar is survived by his wife Madhuri Kumar, son Manu Kumar, daughter Swathy, three grandchildren, relatives and friends. Cremation took place in Bengaluru today at 9.45 am.

Excise officials check liquor inventory

Vendor displaying empty liquor boxes as officials note down the details.

(Continued from page 1)

People crowd in front of shops: Department officials ensured that the seal on the outlets is intact and took an inventory of Indian Made Liquor (IML), beer and wine stock in the outlets and investigated if there are any discrepancies in the stocks.

As the Excise officials opened the wine stores to check stocks, eager people crowded in front of the shops assuming that it was open for sales. At some places and localities in city, officials had a tough time in telling the crowd that the sales will begin only tomorrow. Some residents like in Siddappa Square requested the officials not to open the stores till May 17.

13 Flying Squads

Mysuru Excise Deputy Commissioner K.S. Murali told *Star of Mysore* that they have divided Mysuru district into 10 Zones (three Zones for Mysuru Taluk and one Zone each for other Taluks) and 13 Flying Squads have been formed to check illegal sale and to ensure that stores are opened and closed on time. "We will not allow sit-in sessions and over-the-counter drinking and violators will face action," he said.

Meanwhile, some wine shop owners said that the audit of inventory will create confusion among licence-holders. "We have already suffered for more than 40 days and this would create anxieties. Most liquor outlets closed abruptly and book of accounts had not been updated. Many licence-holders may not even know exact stocks available," they said.

Migrant workers throng Office

(Continued from page 1)

Registering details

Meanwhile, a desk has been established at the Police Commissioner's Office and Police personnel were seen registering details on their mobile phones and ledgers.

The Police personnel are collecting their Aadhaar Card numbers, copy of their Voter's Identity Card and other documents before issuing the Pass to people or to inform the workers about the train facility etc.

Police sources said that Movement Pass would be issued to the migrant workers who would like to go to their native places in their own vehicles and for others, messages pertaining to train timings (State wise) would be sent to their mobile phone numbers. The Police personnel are collecting their names and their phone numbers.

Nissar Ahmed passes away

(Continued from page 1)

His knowledge about Hindu and Islam classical texts were deep. He was able to talk about any incident from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavad Gita and the rest of Hindu religious texts.

Nobody believes that the famous song on Krishna "Benne Kadda Namma Krishna Benne Kadda" is written by Nissar Ahmed. He used satire to the best possible result, to bring out the conflicts of living amidst two different cultures.

The maiden audio cassette of Kannada music was released with the song "Nityotsava" in 1978. The song became widely popular, not just because of the tune but because of the lyrics written by Nissar Ahmed.

Writing poems was his passion. Rashtrakavi Kuvempu read Nissar's poems and invited him to participate in Dasara Poets' meet in 1959. His "Kurigalu Saar Kurigalu" was made popular by Mysore Ananthaswamy when he sang it. That poem became a legend.

Prof. Nissar Ahmed is known for appearing in public dressed in suit. Nobody has ever seen him in any attire other than a suit. Be it a cold winter or hot summer, Nissar Ahmed would always turn up immaculately dressed in suit.

Fresh Police guidelines for Mysureans from May 4 to 17

Mysuru, May 3 (KS)- After following stringent guidelines so far during the nationwide lockdown, here is more and fresh Police guidelines to be followed from May 4 till May 17 in Mysuru city.

As per the directives of Union and State Governments, the Mysuru City Police Commissioner Dr. Chandragupta has issued fresh orders and considering many violations in the past, rules have been tightened.

Permission was granted to public to purchase and transport essential commodities. But many people, in the guise of purchasing essential commodities, were found moving around unnecessarily by misusing the permission. The new rules will come into force from May 4 and will be implemented till May 17 within the Mysuru city limits. Violators will face tough action.

From 7 am to 12 noon

1. People can come out of their houses to purchase essential commodities and avail essential services. They can come out for works that are exempted in the Government order. **2.** In a two-wheeler, only the rider is permitted and no pillion. In a four-wheeler, a driver with two passengers is permitted. **3.** People should purchase essential commodities at shops close to their residences. Travelling beyond their localities is not permitted. **4.** Those going to offices and industries that are permitted to operate by the Government should compulsorily carry Identity Cards issued by their Department or by the company.

From 12 noon to 7 pm

1. Apart from those going to offices and industries, people are barred from using their vehicles. **2.** People should make use of services available nearby as much as possible. **3.** No one is allowed to step out of their houses for non-essential services apart from going to milk booths, medical stores and hospitals.

From 7 pm to 7 am

1. No one is allowed to come out of their houses except for medical reasons. **2.** Businesses that are not essential cannot be conducted but for milk booths, medical stores and hospitals.

Special instructions

1. All individuals should compulsorily wear face masks while coming out. **2.** They should maintain social distancing. **3.** They should compulsorily carry their identity cards. **4.** Those involved in essential services should have obtained a pass which is mandatory. **5.** Only passes issued by City Police Commissioner's Office, Mysuru City Corporation, Deputy Commissioner's Office and Government Departments are valid. **6.** Those who have obtained passes from the above offices till May 3 can use the same till May 17. **7.** Public coming out of their houses for medical services should carry the doctor's prescription.

Exemptions

The above order is not applicable for emergency medical services, goods transportation vehicles, private vehicles with pass providing essential services, Govt. vehicles / vehicles of Govt. employees on duty, HOPCOMS, ration, home delivery of food items, kitchen services and agricultural activities.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,656
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	93
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	13
Total samples tested	:	4,435
Samples found negative	:	4,345
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	77
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	26
Persons cured / discharged	:	4
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	614
Persons cured / discharged	:	293
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	25
Total active cases in India	:	28,046
Persons cured / discharged	:	10,632
Death toll so far in India	:	1,301

(Note: Figures till 5 pm)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.